

## HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS

**Description of Indicator**

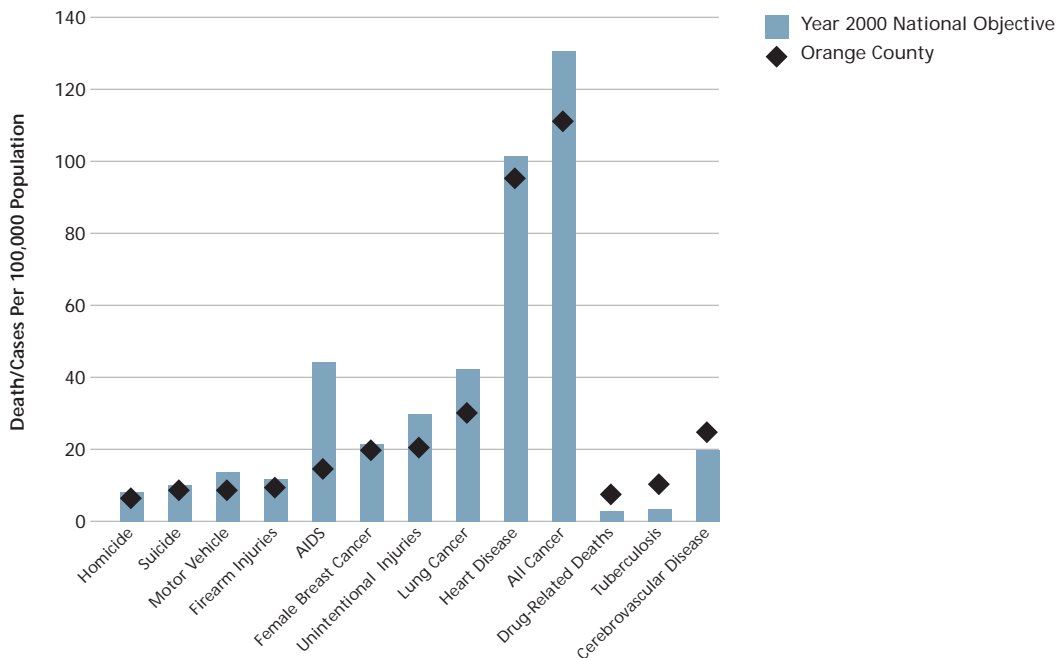
This indicator measures health status for the period of 1995-1997, including mortality rates (deaths per 100,000 people adjusted for age) due to the following: homicide, drug-related deaths, suicide, motor vehicle accidents, firearm injuries, breast cancer, unintentional injuries, stroke, lung cancer, heart disease, and all other cancer; and morbidity rates (cases per 100,000 people) for AIDS and tuberculosis during the same period.

**Why is it Important?**

Comparing Orange County's mortality and morbidity rates to the Healthy People 2000 National Objectives and other California counties helps officials to assess how well health and safety programs are doing, identify areas for improvement and suggest needed public health initiatives.

**How is Orange County Doing?**

With the exception of stroke, tuberculosis and drug-related deaths, Orange County met or exceeded the Healthy People 2000 Objectives for 13 commonly measured health status indicators in the period of 1995-1997. Compared to other California counties, Orange County ranked within the top ten in lowest death rate for unintentional injury (4th), motor vehicle accidents (8th), and suicide (8th). Although Orange County exceeded the Healthy People 2000 Goal for heart disease, only 16 of the 58 California counties had worse heart disease rates than Orange County. Orange County also did not rank well in tuberculosis, AIDS and breast cancer.

**Orange County Health Status Indicators Deaths/Cases per 100,000**

NOTE: AIDS and Tuberculosis are measured by number of cases, not deaths, per 100,000. All others reported are age-adjusted deaths per 100,000 population.

Sources: California Department of Health Services and California Conference of Local Health Offices, County Health Status Profiles 1999, California Department of Health Services: Death Statistical Master Files, 1995-1997.